

Project Name: Max Westheimer Airport Improvements

Recipient: The University of Oklahoma

Address: 660 Parrington Oval, Norman, OK 73019

Amount Requested: \$36,457,732

Project Explanation:

Max Westheimer Airport is categorized by the FAA as a Regional Relieve General Aviation Airport. Even though the airport helps relieve pressure from OKC, it is limited by the size of aircraft it can handle. Over the last couple of years, the airport has started seeing more Gulfstream 5 activity. The airport is unable to handle this size of aircraft regularly. This has required the airport to deny these larger aircraft from landing at its facility. Extending and strengthening the runway and associated parallel taxiway will allow the airport to handle these large aircraft without the fear of damaging our current pavement. Also, the longer runway, with a higher weight-bearing capacity, will allow the airport to attract businesses to its facility. The airport plans to extend runway 18/36 by 1,772 feet, increase the weight-bearing capacity of all of runway 18/36 by an additional 50,000 lbs, and build an extension of the parallel taxiway to meet the newly extended portion of the runway. These improvements will allow the airport to land the larger aircraft that it has had to deny and market its airport to larger aircraft companies. It is also the desire of the airport to attract businesses that are compatible with the aviation environment of the airport and provide a steady/consistent revenue stream for the airport. The airport will develop a 71-acre parcel into a North Hanger Development with the idea that larger facilities will account for and provide more revenue to the airport. It will also develop a 24-acre parcel of land into a South Hanger Development.

TOM COLE
4TH DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

DEPUTY WHIP

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(580) 436-5375

March 31, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Max Westheimer Airport improvements in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is The University of Oklahoma, located at 660 Parrington Oval, Norman, OK 73019. The funding would be used for runway extensions, strengthening runways, and developing additional hanger areas. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will provide much-needed airport improvements that will benefit the community.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

TOM COLE
Member of Congress